और उपनगरीय रूटों पर निःशुल्क यात्रा रियायती पास जारी करता है।

(ख) और (ग) अब तक प्राप्त सूचना के अनुसार आंध्र प्रदेश, असम, हिमाचल प्रदेश, कर्नाटक, केरल, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल, महाराष्ट्र और तमिलनाडु में राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगमों ने बसों में अंधे व्यक्तियों सहित विकलांगों को निःशुल्क या रियायती यात्रा सुविधा प्रदान की है।

(घ) मामला विचाराधीन है ?

Electrification of Railway Track in North Frontier Railway

1441. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for electrification of Railway tracks in North Frontier Railway; and

(b) if so, when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Hiring of Boeing 747 from Middle East Airlines

1442. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air-India had hired a Boeing 747 from Middle East Airlines and a smaller plane from Cargolux at the rate of about $ 5000 per flying hour; and

(b) what is the amount so paid indicating the foreign exchange component thereof; and the reaso and occasion for incurring this expenditure especially in view of the Prime Minister's clear instructions for urgent need to curtail expenditure on non-essential items?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) While Air-India wet leased one B-747 aircraft from Middle East Airlines in October, 1987 at a rate of US $ 5000 per flying hour, an aircraft was hired from Carglux. The hiring charges included full complement of cockpit and cabin crew, hull and war insurance and full maintenance of the aircraft.

(b) The lease charges announced US $ 1475417 equivalent to Indian Rupees 191.50 lakhs.

Air-India had heavily booked loads on their services between UK/Europe and India and other airlines were not able to accommodate these loads. In order to avoid inconvenience, there was no option bu to lease an aircraft.

Setting up of National Apex Body under National Policy on Education

1443. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Policy on Education-1986 had envisaged setting up of National Apex Body for greater co-ordination, uniformity and consistency in policy, sharing of facilities and developing inter-disciplinary research covering higher education and professional fields; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far with regard to its composition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details relating to the establishment of this body including its composition, functions, etc., have not yet been finalised.

Stopping of translation programme by ICHR

1444. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided in September 1978 that the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) should stop the translation programme to save expenditure;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite such a decision the translation programme continues and the ICHR still intends to undertake 23 titles under the continuing translation programme; and

(c) whether in view of Prime Minister's call to save avoidable expenditure this programme is proposed to be stopped; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) to (c) Under the Programme of Translation of Text Books or reference literature in History for Higher Education for translation into 12 Indian languages, 86 titles were selected by the Indian Council of Historical Research. 340 translated manuscripts were prepared in different languages, out of which 41 were published till September, 1978. The scheme was reviewed by the Government in September, 1978 and it was decided that Indian Council of Historical Research should not proceed further with translation of pending titles and the translated manuscripts should be got published through private publishers, Granth Academies, Text Book Boards etc., as it was felt that the Council was not expected to be an agency for translation of books. 63 books have been published and action for the publication of the rest of the manuscripts is in progress. Since September, 1978 the Council has not undertaken translation of any new title under the said programme.

Purchases made by ICHR

1445. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), a small organisation, at the fag end of financial year purchased six electronic typewriters, one word-processor, two air-conditioners and a plain paper copier, in addition to the two plain paper copiers already with it, and other items like sofa-sets, de-luxe tables, curtains and other furniture items; if so, what were the details of the cost and the necessity thereof;

(b) whether these purchases were made in a haste that most of the items were actually supplied after the financial year was over even after the cheques for payment had been issued; and

(c) whether the Prime Minister's directive for economising in Government expenditure was kept in view in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) According to the Information furnished by the Indian